



several experiments have lately been made by some of the most eminent physicians of Paris, and with astonishing success. Persons who have been for months affected with sciatica have been instantly cured by this light and innocent burning.

## THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 5, 1850.

### BILLS! BILLS!!

This week we send bills to all of our Western subscribers whose subscriptions expire at No. 208—that is, with the end of the year. Do not overlook them—and we ask a prompt response to them, with such new subscribers as each one can obtain. The hearty cooperation of every individual, who is the friend of the *Era*, is the life of its subscription list. Recollect the terms:

An old subscriber, and two new ones, or three new subscribers, \$5; clubs of five, \$8; clubs of ten, \$15. Single copies, \$2. Agents allowed 50 cents for every now, 25 cents for every renewed subscriber, which may retain themselves, or allow to subscribers, just as they please. Every friend of the paper authorized and requested to do all he can for its interests.

Thus far, we return our grateful acknowledgments to the many friends who have shown their anxiety to promote its circulation.

### THE FRIEND OF YOUTH.

Last week, a mistake occurred in printing the club prices of the Friend of Youth. The price of ten copies is \$3.50, instead of \$3, as was stated. Agents and others sending subscribers will please notice this.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The President's message is of reasonable length and respectable execution. Our foreign relations are represented in a healthful and peaceful condition. The prosperity of the country is dwelt upon with much complacency, and the President does not seem to think that there is any suffering on account of the existing financial policy of the Government.

Nothing is said of the deep discontent prevailing in the North in regard to the Fugitive law, or of the Disunion movements of the South. But much is said of the reverence due the laws, and of the fixed purpose of the Administration to see that they be faithfully executed.

The measures of the last session respecting slavery and the Territories are fully, emphatically endorsed; the President hopes they will be regarded as a final settlement of all the dangerous questions which at one time menaced the Union, and strongly advise that Congress abstain from disturbing them. Of course, the odious Fugitive law is sustained, and we now know that it is an Administrative measure.

The reduction of postage to three cents, uniform rate, or letters, and a modification of the rates on newspapers, are cordially recommended; and it is suggested that should it work well, the rate on letters may be further reduced to two cents.

The city of Washington is favorable and graciously commanded to the care of Congress, and an appropriation advised, for the purpose of supplying it with water.

River and Harbor Improvements are not overlooked—but the only part of the message which may not have been written by a Democratic President, is that relating to a Tariff. Mr. Fillmore recommends a modification of the Tariff of 1846, so as to substitute specific for ad valorem duties, but still he is opposed to high imports.

Such is a brief summary of the important parts of the message. It is well written, and is ambitious neither in sentiment nor style. Its most remarkable feature, which will stamp the character of this Whig Administration is, its full, unequivocal endorsement and adoption of the Texas subsidy, the Case Non-intervention policy, and the abominable Fugitive Law of the last session of Congress. We have no room for further comment.

### NON-COMFORMITY, AT TIMES A DUTY.

The Washington *Republic*, towards the close of a long article in which it attempts to show that individuals have no right to pronounce upon the moral character of a law they are commanded to obey, makes the following admissions, which completely upset all its previous arguments:

"It is also true, that it may be the duty of an individual, on Christian principles, to refuse obedience to a particular law. We must 'obey God rather than man'—we must do something against the plain command of God forbidding us to do it, we not only may, but should, refuse to obey. Thus the early Christians, being required to offer idolatrous worship to the statues of the Emperor, refused to do it. And the Apostles, having received express commands from their Saviour to preach in his name, continued to preach, notwithstanding an arbitrary order of the Sanhedrin against it. This was in one case a mere effort of passive resistance—a mere decline in the face of overwhelming numbers."

No active resistance was in either case thought of—no commotions were stirred up—no forcible opposition resorted to or recommended—not attempt made to defame or deride the governing power, or to bring it into contempt or discredit with the people. In one case, that is, in such like cases—as plain, manifest certainty that God's law is against human law—can active obedience be refused, according to the theory of Christianity or the practice of the early Christians?

This is a distinct, emphatic assertion of the paramount claims of the "Higher Law," against which the *Republic* and kindred journals have indulged in so much senseless clamor. The supremacy of the Higher Law, and the absolute duty of every citizen to judge of Human Law for himself, and disobey it, should it injure upon him, is his judgment, what the Higher Law forbids, are plainly, unequivocally affirmed.

The question arises, does the Fugitive Law command what is clearly in conflict with the Divine Law? Recollect, each citizen, according to the doctrine of the *Republic*, must decide this doctrine for himself.

The majority of the People of the non-slaveholding States have been educated in the belief that the condition of slavery is morally wrong. They conscientiously believe that it is a violation of natural right and every principle of Christianity, to hold a fellow-man in bondage—in a condition, wherein, being regarded as property by the law, he can acquire no property; in which his sacred relations of husband and wife, are subordinate to the relation of ownership; in which his body and soul, his mind, his conscience, his affections, his earnings, his all, are at the absolute disposal of another. Such a condition they believe inherently, unchangeably wrong; and, therefore, they would be criminal in the sight of God, if they should hold a fellow-being, or aid in placing him, in it.

Now, to say nothing of things of omission on joined by the Fugitive Law, it makes a positive requisition on them all, should they be called upon by the Marshal, to aid in replacing a human being in precisely that condition which they believe to be morally wrong. To obey the requisition would be as much a violation of conscience, as to obey a law commanding them to assist in hanging a man, did they believe capital punishment immoral.

The requisition is as unconstitutional as would be the establishment of a certain form of religion. Congress is expressly forbidden to pass any law abridging the rights of conscience; and our Courts of Justice signalize their regard for these rights, by never exacting an oath from the citizen who believes every form of swearing wrong.

Now, the *Republic*, unless it take the ground that to aid in replacing a man in slavery, is so manifestly right, that no citizen can possibly feel any conscientious objection to it, must admit that the requisition we have referred to, is wrong, tyrannical, unconstitutional, insidious.

### THE GREAT OBJECTS OF THE UNION.

Nobody can doubt Mr. Webster's greatness of intellect; but, as a statesman, he certainly is not characterized by any remarkable breadth of view or elevation of sentiment. He seems seldom to forget that he is, first and foremost, the attorney of the Trading Classes. Their views, their supposed interests, generally determine his policy.

We have been accustomed to believe that the Union was formed "to establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity." We know that the necessity of providing means for the payment of the public debt, and for the relief of the business interests of the country, were potent reasons in favor of a Union; but he who attaches paramount importance to these, does injustice to the memory of the wise men who founded the present Constitution.

These remarks are suggested by some observations which fell from Mr. Webster, in his reply to certain merchants of New York, who lately waited upon him in that city to do him honor.

There were crises," he said, "in public affairs, yet it was necessary to call a meeting of the Union, and to recall the motives upon which it was formed—and one of these crises was now. And, in his opinion, there was no place for this revival so becoming as among the men for whom the *Union was formed*, and whose influence

was great."

The Union was created for many purposes. One was to pay off the national debt, another was to secure the proceeds of the public land for the payment of that debt. Yet others were to make us one people, and to give us peace at home and responsibility abroad.

It was found by those who investigated

the matter, that the main purpose for which it was formed was to aid and to protect trade and commerce."

How the "main chance" looks up in all his speeches! It is the money value of things which first strikes his calculating mind. His theory is, that the Union was formed for merchants and shopkeepers; its great purpose being, to help them make money.

Now, Trade is a good thing in its place—one of the necessities of Society, constituted as it is best taken care of, however, when most let alone. But there are other things better than Trade. External and internal, Security, Freedom, Justice, Education, Religion, Humanity, exemption from Anarchy, from Despotism, from Foreign Aggression, are not to be named with the favorable or unfavorable balances of a merchant's ledger. They are all infinitely more important than Trade, and constituted, not subordinate, but paramount reason for the formation of the American Union.

### THE PRESS IN THE UNITED STATES.

A town of twenty thousand inhabitants in New England has three daily newspapers, and a copy of one of them costs one penny.

This is a fact very well worthy of consideration. Paper must here be free from excise duties, and the taxes and advertising expenses must be trivial, if they exist at all. Knowledge is not taxed in the Western Republic. Fiscal obstacles are not there opposed to education by the press. The facts are significant of abundant mental activity.

This has been said about the moral de-

parture of the American press. As a cheap press, it is accused of being, in many instances, an obscene tyranny.—*London Standard of Freedom*.

The Standard, tacitly admitting the accusation, proceeds to show that a cheap press is not necessarily corrupt. We have heard quite too much of the "moral depravity" of the "obscene tyranny" of American newspapers. The charge, undeniably true, has been made about the moral depravity of the American press. As a cheap press, it is accused of being, in many instances, an obscene tyranny.—*London Standard of Freedom*.

The few individuals who entertain this Disunion doctrine, cannot fairly be said to constitute a party, for they rely alone upon moral influence, and think it wrong to vote or hold office under the Federal Constitution. How grossly untrue is this! The editor quotes with horror the proceedings of the Quiney Mission Institute against the Fugitive Law, and invokes the country "to drown down such wicked and mischievous fanaticism!"

"Interesting"—Copies from the *New York Herald* the proceedings of the Mississippi Legislature, and draws from them the inference that Congress must act instantaneously and crush the nest-egg of Abolition, or we be outside the Union. The Mexican law does not exclude Slavery from the Territories—"Arkansas"—Quotes the extravagances of Governor Roane's Message, and informs the President that he intends to publish certain portions denouncing President Fillmore's Message threatening Texas with the military power, in the hope that he has conceded anything to the detriment of the South, and maintains that the Mexican law does not exclude Slavery from sheep's clothing."

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## LETTER FROM LONDON.

London, November 15, 1850.

To the Editor of the National Era:

The building for the great Industrial Exhibition goes steadily up, and not very many weeks will transpire before the shell at least will be completed.

Prince Albert came up from Windsor to view it, a week ago to-day, and was much pleased, it is said, with the progress which the workmen have made. *On it*, that the Queen has designed a carpet, and Prince Albert executed several pieces of sculpture, for the exhibition. He has celebrated Kohl-nor diamond is to be exhibited in the general department. This is setting the example for the people in a most worthy manner, by Royal authority. These comparatively trifling occurrences add very much to the popularity of Her Majesty and the Prince. I doubt if ever there sat upon a throne a woman who was more enthusiastically loved than Victoria. Gusophil.

I intended to have noticed in my last letter the source of the British Anti-State and Church Association, held in the London Tavern, yesterday night. Samuel Morley, Esq., one of the reformers in England, was called to the chair, and the Secretary read the Annual Report on behalf of the Executive Committee. The Rev. John Burnet made one of his speeches, which are always overflowing with wit and good humor. He was followed by Charles Gilpin, who made an ardent speech against Church opinion, and exposed the present "uncouth cry of 'no Popery!'" But Edward Mill made the speech of the evening. It was a masterly effort in favor of individualism against ecclesiasticism, and appeared to be appreciated by his audience.

The Society is now in the third year of its existence, and has already grown to be one of the most powerful reformatory associations in the Kingdom. It expects the coming winter to act with increased vigor, through lectures and the press.

The Churchmen are doing their best to distract the present excitement against Catholicism that it shall add to the strength of State-Churchism.

There can be no doubt, that, under the peculiar circumstances, the Pope's conduct was an insult to England; all parties agreed to this; but the State-Church is a living insult to all dissenters, and something beside a mere insult, to others, for it robs them of their goods to support a system which they abhor; therefore the dissenters will not join heartily in the "no Popery!" cry of the Churchmen, for it is a sham, got up to give the hunting-parsons a longer lease of the fat things which they enjoy at present!

Last Saturday was "Lord May's Day" here, and was celebrated with more usual life, and "pomp, and circumstance." From an early hour in the morning, until late at night, the streets were choked up with masses of people and carriages. The railway companies ran excursion trains, so that hundreds and thousands of the inhabitants of the country and provincial towns were here to partake in the gayeties of the occasion.

The display this year was entirely different from that which has heretofore taken place. Everything shadowed forth peace, prosperity, and happiness, while before, there have been non-sensical displays, something after the style of Gog and Magog in the Guildhall. The character of Peace was represented in the procession by a beautiful young lady, dressed in white, and reclining upon a white palfrey. In her train, were representatives of America, Europe, and Asia. Commerce was magnificently represented, and, upon the whole, the show was gorgeous, though it seemed as if the occasion did not justify the extraordinary display.

Never before saw such crowds of people, save two or three years ago, the great Chartist riot demonstration took place, which so frightened the inhabitants of London.

The procession, after passing through several streets in the city, took State barge at Blackfriars Bridge, and rowed up to the Whitehall. At night, it returned to the bridge, where it was joined by the Foreign Ambassadors, the nobility, and gentry, when the whole company proceeded to the Guildhall, where they were entertained by the Lord Mayor to a Grand Banquet.

Lord John Russell was received with marked applause, in reference to his recent letter to the Bishop of Durham, and in his speech made allusion to it, and the manner in which England had conducted itself in this matter. The Rev. Mr. Bradshaw, secretary of the Peace Society, made a speech, in which he detailed some of the proceedings of the friends of Peace, the Continent. Joseph Sturge also spoke, but Mr. Cobden did not appear, as he sympathized with the Silesian Holsteiners, and blames the English Government for the course it took in reference to the dispute.

Mr. Paxton, the inventor of the "Crystal Palace" for the Grand Exhibition, an evening or two ago, delivered a speech, in which he spoke of Arts, and Overstone in the chair upon the invention, the progress of the building, &c. It is reported in the papers, and is of great interest. If so well received, he will make a speech, in which he detailed some of the proceedings of the friends of Peace, the Continent. Joseph Sturge also spoke, but Mr. Cobden did not appear, as he sympathized with the Silesian Holsteiners, and blames the English Government for the course it took in reference to the dispute.

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troops from Hesse. By a royal order, all Prussian subjects belonging to the army were recalled from any foreign State. This order will strike a fatal blow at the poor Holstein army, as it will deprive it of its most valuable troops. We have but little certainty; but at this moment there is a brighter prospect of peace. Prussia, with all her bluster, is gradually withdrawing her troops to the frontier of Hesse, and it is expected that she will soon evacuate Cassel. This is the prospect at present, and the Hessians and Frisians, I am afraid, will not fare so well as they deserve.

When the Prussian troops entered the Electorate, they received no shouts of welcome, for the Hessians knew they were not the real friends of liberty. Perhaps the people of Hesse are sincere, but the ruler is not. The ruler is not, and we are not. No one can tell yet what will be the result of the disputes; the next news may be of battle and its horrors, but it is not.

A great ball was held last evening, in the Guildhall, for the benefit of the soldiers. The Lord Mayor of London was there, and Lord Dudley Stuart, and hundreds of others. *The Times* tried its best to cry it down, but could not do it, for it was largely attended.

JULIAN.

The FREE PRESBYTERIAN is published at Mercer, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, at \$2 a year, by Mr. Clark.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate,

Being suddenly called, in the midst of the session of Congress, by a painful dispensation of Divine Providence, to the responsible station which I now hold, I contented myself with such communications to the Legislature as the exigency of the case seemed to require.

I have, however, been mourning for the loss of my beloved Chief Magistrate, and all hearts were grieved at his sudden death.

The Society is now in the third year of its existence, and has already grown to be one of the most powerful reformatory associations in the Kingdom. It expects the coming winter to act with increased vigor, through lectures and the press.

The Churchmen are doing their best to distract the present excitement against Catholicism that it shall add to the strength of State-Churchism.

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Nations like India, are in a state of nature, and are not dependent, possessing certain rights, and owing certain duties to each other, arising from their necessary and unavoidable relations; which rights and duties there is no common human authority to protect and enforce. Still, there are right and wrong, and in India, although there is no tribunal which an injured party can appeal to, the disinterested judgment of mankind, and ultimately the arbitrament of the law.

Amidst the acknowledged rights of nations is that which each possesses of establishing that government which it may deem most conducive to the happiness and prosperity of its own citizens; of changing that form, as circumstances require; of maintaining a balance of power, and of the safety of the nation; of securing the welfare of its subjects; and of maintaining a balance between the interests of the people and the interests of the State.

Some unavoidable delay has occurred, arising from distance and the difficulty of intercourse between this Government and that of Nicaragua. The cause of the delay is not known.

Opposition to the construction of a ship canal between the two oceans, through the territory of that State, have made progress in their preliminary arrangements.

It is important, that the Mexican frontier, which is the eleventh article of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, be bound to protect the Indians within our borders.

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the standard of official employment, by selecting for places of importance individuals fitted for the posts to which they are assigned, by their known integrity, talents, and virtues. In so extensive a country, with so great a population, and known few persons appointed to office, it is sometimes unavoidable that such appointments be made, notwithstanding the greatest care. In such cases, the power of removal may be properly exercised; and neglect of duty in such cases will be no more tolerated in individuals appointed by myself than in those appointed by others.

I am happy in being able to say that no unfavorable change in our foreign relations has taken place since the message at the opening of the last session of Congress, or that the relations of the United States with Great Britain are at present as friendly as they were at the time of the signing of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce.

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## THE NATIONAL ERA.

For the National Era.

## SONNET.

*In his name shall all Gentiles trust.—MATT. xi. 21.*

## SONNET.

The dead paroxysms were broken down—  
At length, thank Heaven! the veil is rent in twain—  
The end universal man's o'er earth's domain,  
May know his Father face to face long unknown.  
Lone Justice, in the eye of light and gloom,  
The day her deepest, that the trust  
Was well satisfied; for, lo! its splendors shine,  
Luring men's eyes from gazing in the dust.  
The Saviour comes—the sinless Son of God;  
The Sun of Righteousness, who bears of Love,  
Infinite grace, and truth, and interdict,  
And bids the mists of prejucyce loose.  
Even so, O Master, make our spirits rise,  
With thy own boundless, heavenly Charity!

H. J.  
Centreville, Indiana.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS AT THE NORTH.

## GREENFIELD, HIGHLAND COUNTY, OHIO—ABRIDGED.

Pursuant to a call of the citizens of Greenfield, a large and respectable meeting assembled in the Presbyterian church on Wednesday, the 13th of November.

The meeting was organized by calling Hugh Gholson, Esq., to the chair, pointing S. Scott and A. B. Wilson, Secretaries.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Rev. William Gage, and Rev. S. Crothers, Rev. A. L. Rankin, and Col. Rogers, were appointed a committee on resolutions.

The Fugitive Slave law was read by Rev. John Kincaid.

Hon. S. P. Chase being present, was called upon to address the meeting. He took the stand and spoke at some length, showing the unconstitutionality of the Fugitive Slave law? He was followed by Rev. H. S. Fallows.

After which, the report of the committee was then read, accepted, and unanimously adopted, to wit:

*Resolved*, That we hold it as a self-evident truth, that the authority of most High God is paramount, and that it is above all law; and, therefore, when men by their landmarks, confound their authority and law, disobedience to their anacments is obedience to God.

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to present to the Constitutional Congress for the repeal of the Fugitive Slave law?

The meeting then had recess to candle-lighting. After recess, the meeting met and addressed, by Rev. John Rankin and others, to a late hour, showing the unconstitutional and wickedness of the slave law.

## BELMONT COUNTY, OHIO—ABRIDGED.

Agreeably to previous calls for the citizens of Belmont county and vicinity to meet in Flushing, Ohio, on the 16th of October, 1850, to express their abhorrence of the Fugitive Slave bill, passed last Congress, met and organized, by apointing Thomas Durbin, Chairman, and Grerrey K. Miller, Secretary.

On motion of Mr. J. Porter, V. Porter, Dr. Baily, L. C. Piggott, were appointed a committee to bring forward resolutions expressive of the meeting on the subject which brought them together.

The meeting was addressed during the absence of G. W. Miller and I. Branson. Two of the committee appointed to prepare resolutions produced the following, which were adopted unanimously, except the first, was to maintain the constitutionality of the Fugitive Slave bill.

*Resolved*, That said bill is so monstrous in its character, that no man who holds himself to be accountable being can avoid disregarding it; and therefore will not aid in the execution of said bill, nor obey it in any way, under any circumstances.

*Resolved*, That the Fugitive Slave bill is the most diabolical outrage, than that ever emanated from any legislative body; how doubly monstrous, then, as coming from that professes to legislate for the millions of freemen, or to protect humanity, liberty, and the right.

*Resolved*, That we look upon no being more depraved than the willing slave, save one, and that one is the man who would stoop, whether for honor or profit, or any motive whatever, to become the instrument of acting as commissioner, or in any other capacity.

*Resolved*, That while we laud those who stood firm for humanity, and opposed its advocates, with such men as Webster, Cass, and Clay, their heroism.

*Resolved*, That we will never cease agitation so long as we are required to sustain any system which we conscientiously believe to be contrary to sound moral principles, and believing the Fugitive Slave bill to be of that character, we will renounce, and abdicate, agitate, agitate, and agitate until it is repealed.

*Resolved*, That we cherish the Union with an attachment surpassed only by our love for correct principles; and we believe the principles contained in the Constitution, if properly carried out, will cure all the real and imaginary evil to which our country has been subjected by unprincipled politicians or quacks.

*Resolved*, That Henry Clay, in intimating to the North that they had little at stake, while the South had all, was as far from the mark as though the North set high the value of property than principle, which is utterly false, as the past history of our country has proved, and we trust that the future will prove, (except with two classes) one, the North, the other South—the old Cotton, the other Slaveocracy—with Daniel Webster at the head of one, and Henry Clay, of the other.

## EAST ROCHESTER, COLUMBIANA CO., OHIO—ABRIDGED.

The following resolutions were adopted, as a meeting of the citizens of East Rochester, Columbiiana Co., Ohio, and vicinity, held without distinction of party, on the evening of the 14th of November, 1850, viz: [We must abide, as we do all the rest.—Ed.]

*Resolved*, That we do now, by every sentiment of honor, every feeling of duty, every dictate of our moral nature, and the higher and holier mandate of the gospel, to all constitutional, lawful, and just means, to overthrow these nefarious and abominable fugitive laws, to wipe away the foul stain from the national character, and to restore our national character from this almost indelible stigma, and to shew down the sooty infamies of our indignation upon the instrumentalities that connected and consummated this execrable and odious feature.

*Resolved*, That any person who will accept the office of commissioner under the fugitive law, is a traitor to reason, humanity, patriotism, philosophy, justice, liberty, nature, and nature's God, and must deserve the curse of man.

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